

April 1, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners

District #3 in the Township of Hanover

County of Morris, Cedar Knolls, New Jersey

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 1, 2021 in accordance with the Public Meeting Act of 1975, Chapter 231. The Board observed a moment of silence for all those who have given their lives in service of their communities and nation.

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Michael Dugan Sr., Michael Dugan Jr., and Robert O'Hare were present. Commissioner Robert Callas was absent.

Chief DiGiorgio, Administrator Schultz, Lt. DeSimone, Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone, Captain Thompson, and Fire Co. Member Davidson were also in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes from the March 18, 2021 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

Amendments to Previous Minutes: None.

Commissioner Dugan Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2021 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Dugan Sr. seconded the motion. All were in favor. Commissioner Callas was absent.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Commissioner Dugan Sr. distributed a preliminary March 2021 P&L. Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the District was getting close to the 30% threshold that the State allowed fire districts to spend prior to the budget being approved by voters. Chief DiGiorgio noted that the District has spent 19% of the 2021 budget and should be alright until after the election.

Report of Fire Commissioner Board Committees and Chief of Department:

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief DiGiorgio submitted his Bi-Monthly on March 26, 2021 and noted that the Lieutenants reports were distributed a few days later.

Chief DiGiorgio reported that the annual physicals are underway and that currently 42 have been scheduled or completed. Chief DiGiorgio noted that 13

members have not scheduled or completed their annual physical. Chief DiGiorgio noted that the window of opportunity to schedule a physical is April 30, 2021. Chief DiGiorgio reported that 57% of the department has been vaccinated which means that 33 of the 58 members have been vaccinated. Chief DiGiorgio felt that 57% vaccination rate would remain steady because most of those who are not currently vaccinated indicated that they are not interested in getting the vaccine.

Chief DiGiorgio reported that the District received 5 applications for the posted FF/EMT position but unfortunately none of the applicants met the qualifications for the position. Chief DiGiorgio felt that the Board would have to go back and revisit the direction the Board wants to go with regarding the staffing level. Chief DiGiorgio reported that the applications for the F/T EMT positions were due on March 24 and the applications have yet to be reviewed.

Commissioner O'Hare asked if anyone had questions for the Chief. There were no questions.

EMS: Nothing to report.

BUDGET: Nothing to report.

PERSONNEL: Nothing to report.

NEGOTIATIONS: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that there was progress and felt that they were almost there.

LIAISON TO THE VOLUNTEERS: Nothing to report.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Commissioner O'Hare asked if the holiday lights were going to be left on the tree year-round. Fire Co. Member Davidson indicated that they would start to be removed soon and completed once the ladder truck was repaired. Chief DiGiorgio reported that the ladder truck is functioning but is not being used for primary service. Chief DiGiorgio noted that the ladder tuck could be used to remove the holiday lights.

Administrator Schultz reported that landscaper bids were due on Wednesday afternoon and that the District received one proposal. Commissioner O'Hare asked who submitted the proposal. Administrator Schultz indicated the Karr Landscaping submitted the proposal and reported that it was not much more than last year. Administrator Schutz asked if the Board would like to make a

motion to accept the proposal. Commissioner Dugan Sr. made a motion to accept the Karr Landscaping bid, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Jr. All were in favor. Commissioner Callas was absent.

Chief DiGiorgio reported that the District has received the boiler inspection certificates.

APPARATUS/EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE: Chief DiGiorgio reported that there was nothing beyond what was included in Lt. Belott's report.

INSURANCE: Administrator Schultz reported that the health insurance provider performed the annual discrimination report on how the District did its benefits and the District met all of the thresholds as required.

Administrator Schultz reported that the District received notification the Federal Government is putting a hold on Medicare payments due to the 2 % sequester matter is resolved in Congress.

COMMUNICATIONS: Nothing to report.

BY-LAWS: Nothing to report.

WEBSITE: Up to date.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported no progress.

LIASON TO EXEMPTS: Nothing to report.

RECORDS RETENTION: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that there is still one project in progress.

LIAISON TO HANOVER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Dugan Sr. reported that the house next to the firehouse put up a fence so the District removed the firehouse fence along this border.

REMINDERS:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7:00 P.M at the firehouse.

The next Joint Fire Prevention Board Meeting is to be determined.

Fire District Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 from 2 P.M. until 9 P.M. Administrator Schultz noted that they are to be held in person at the fire station.

The Board's Reorganization Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. at the firehouse.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone asked why it took the Board so long to get back on issues or problems that have been presented to them. Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone noted that she has presented issues to the Board and has yet to get a response about them. Commissioner O'Hare reported that this has been an ongoing problem but indicated that he could not give a direct answer unless the question is about a specific issue. Commissioner O'Hare noted that the Board Committees are sometimes not as efficient as they should be. Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone felt the taking more than 60 days to get back a response is too long and asked what the Board was going to do about it. Commissioner O'Hare reported that the Board is down one commissioner and that sometimes the Board needs to go to outside sources for counsel and that can delay the Board responding. Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone acknowledged that the Board had to go to outside sources but still felt it should not take over 60 days to respond to the issues. Commissioner Dugan Sr. asked if Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone could be more specific on the issue she wants a response on. Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone did not feel that it was appropriate to discuss in a public meeting. Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone reported that there were other members who have also not received a response from the Board about issues that they have raised and felt it is only fair that the Board update those individuals on the status of the issue they brought to the Board. Asst. EMS Chief DeSimone felt that otherwise the members feel that their issues or questions are being overlooked and not taken seriously. Commissioner O'Hare reported that Asst/ EMS Chief DeSimone's comments were duly noted.

RESOLUTIONS:

Commissioner O'Hare read Resolution 21-04-01-29 authorizing the sale of Car 32. Administrator Schultz noted that the car was sold on GovDeals but the person who bought it has not picked it up. Administrator Schultz felt that if the individual

does not pick up the car on a timely basis, the District should disqualify the sale and take the next highest bid on GovDeals. Administrator Schultz noted that this resolution can be approved tonight and amended at the next meeting if need be. Commissioner Dugan Jr. asked how much the car sold for. Administrator Schultz reported that the car sold for \$2,100. Commissioner Dugan Sr. asked if there was any implied obligation of the Board passes the resolution tonight. Administrator Schultz reported that the resolution is being presented after the sale as the individual has already paid GovDeals and did not feel there was any implied obligation if the individual does not come to take possession of the car.

Commissioner Dugan Jr. made, a motion to introduce the resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr. All were in favor. Commissioner Callas was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Commissioner Dugan Jr., seconded by Commissioner Dugan Sr., to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Commissioner Callas was absent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Calabrese, Bookkeeper